

## SOUTH LAKELAND RURAL BOWLING LEAGUE

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012 in The Athenaeum, Leasgill

**Present:** In the **Chair Mrs. Alice Waite.** Representatives from Allithwaite(2), Bowness (2), Burneside (2), Burton (2), Crosthwaite & Lyth (1), Endmoor (2), KA Hale (2), Hawkshead (2), Hevershan (2), Holme (1), Kirkby Lonsdale (2), Lindale (2), Milnthorpe (1), Sedbergh (1), Staveley (2), Subscription (1), Victoria (2), Windermere (2) (31 delegates from all 19 League Clubs), together with Mr G H Stephens and Mr J D Smith. 2 representatives from Levens were also present

**1. Chairman's opening address:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1.1.** A minutes silence was then held in respect of bowlers associated with the League who had passed away. The Chairman said that if Clubs let the Secretary have names of anyone who had died prior to future AGMs, they could be mentioned by name.

**1.2. Chairman:** *It is a pleasure to see so many of you here for the AGM. Welcome to any club Representatives who are here for the first time. Another enjoyable bowling season has passed ending in yet another exciting and nail biting conclusion to the season with the Skidmore Cup. All the games entertained and brought out the best in competitive banter. The finalists, Holme and Heversham gave their fans a great night of friendly fierce fought competitive bowling.*

*There were some hiccups along the way during the season, which were resolved by John Smith, whose knowledge of the rules and his professional even handed approach to the job of secretary are invaluable to SLRBL.*

*Victoria and Netherfield took over the Levens Skidmore fixtures when they had to withdraw from the League. Due to a fault with the Hale lights, Levens stepped into the breach at the last minute and saved the day. I am sure that we are all grateful to them for their help.*

*Hedley Stevens, well, what can I say, other than thank you for all your work in ensuring that our clubs scores are analysed and recorded, and published. We often take for granted the number crunchers, who get on with things behind the scenes to provide us with the information on which we depend. Thank you Hedley.*

*Ken Ashworth has accounted for our finances once again. Another number crunching administrative job that can so easily be taken for granted. My thanks to Ken.*

*Finally, thanks to all of you, who have turned out to bowl in all weather conditions to represent your clubs, playing to the rule and more importantly within the spirit of the rural league. This year (and last) I have seen many clubs recruiting new members, with the Rural providing the equivalent of the Ski "nursery slopes" allowing new members to learn the techniques of bowling, but more importantly, the sportsmanship so essential to friendly competitive bowling.*

*The spirit of the rural is the message that I would like us all to take away with us from this AGM and for all clubs who play in the Rural to put the spirit of the rural before their competitive need to win at all cost. The spirit of the Rural is to provide a safe and friendly atmosphere for new bowlers, bowlers who no longer want to feel the pressure of other Leagues and less experienced bowlers to enjoy a, yes, competitive game but not a pressured game, a stretching game but not an unfair, unwinnable opponent. The fairness of the Rural League is not in the rules, (it can be, but what does that say about us) it is in each of us, each captain who chooses a team without really giving consideration to the spirit of the Rural deny an even playing field to other clubs who do place the spirit of the Rural first when selecting their team. The argument that it is not always possible is accepted, but it is also not acceptable for this to be accepted practice week after week.*

*This came to me through my computer this week.*

*Watch our thoughts; they become words.*

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*Watch our words; they become actions.*

*Watch our actions; they become habits.*

*Watch our habits; they become character and*

*Character; becomes who we are and what we represent.*

*I think the same can be said of the Rural League.*

2. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Ken Ashcroft, Gillian Yates, Allithwaite, Rod Sayers, Milnthorpe (Langdale had been invited to the meeting).
3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the last AGM held 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011 which, had been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read and **APPROVED**.
4. **Business Remaining from the last AGM:** None other than review of Rule 6.2
5. **Secretary's Report:** This had been distributed prior to the meeting. The Secretary reiterated his thanks to **Hedley Stephens** for all his work. Additional points:
  - 5.1. **Random Draw:** The Executive Officers had had one dispute to consider. This had arisen about the method of selection of players to play twice when a team was short of players. The Captain of team 'A' wanted to restrict the choice to those of his players prepared to play twice (as well as protecting two young players) which left two players in the draw. The Captain of team 'B' objected. The Executive Officers took the view that this restriction negated the random nature of the draw intended by Rule 8.2 and that all the players names in the team that are short should have been entered in the draw at the outset of the match.
  - 5.2. **Re-arrangement of postponed matches:** Two clubs had failed to complete a fixture that could not be played on the intended day due green conditions. Initially the two captains could not find a mutually agreeable date; the matter had then been allowed to drift and had not been resolved. It is the home team's responsibility to make the arrangements for the re-arranged fixture.
  - 5.3. **Season 2013:** If Levens and Langdale were admitted to the League there would 21 teams. The season would need to start one week earlier on April 5<sup>th</sup> and finish one week later with the David Skidmore final on Friday September 27<sup>th</sup> 2013.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** The Secretary presented the report on the Annual Accounts on behalf of Mr Ashcroft. The year end balance was roughly £40 down on last year, in line with what was expected. This was principally due to the waiving of the fee for the David Skidmore Competition and planned reduction in the balance held. He suggested that the balance was such that the David Skidmore Competition fee could again be waived and League Fee kept at £15 for a further year providing donations to other organisations and the David Skidmore prize money remained the same (see later item). He also proposed that in future years there should be just one combined fee to cover League and the David Skidmore entry. **AGREED:** That the accounts are approved.
7. **Election of Executive Officers:**
  - 7.1. **Chairman:** Alice Waite was elected to serve for a further year
  - 7.2. **Treasurer:** Ken Ashcroft was believed to be willing to serve a further year and was re-elected
  - 7.3. **Secretary:** J D Smith was willing to serve a further year and was re-elected
  - 7.4. **Nominations:** In future years nominations are to be invited prior to the meeting.
8. **Election of Press Secretary and Web Site Organiser:** **AGREED:** That Hedley Stephens be **RE-ELECTED**
9. **Appointment of Representatives to serve on the Cumbria County Crown Green Bowling Association (CCCGBA) Committee:** **AGREED:** That Bruce Tyson (Heversham) and Tom Grindey (Heversham) be appointed. The Chairman asked for there to be a report from the Representatives to the next AGM.
10. **Donation to Cumbria County Ladies Crown Green Bowling Association:** **AGREED:** That a donation of £25.00 be made.
11. **Donation to Cumbria County Juniors Crown Green Bowling Association:** A proposal was made that £40.00 be donated to the County Juniors. An amendment was proposed that the donation be £25.00

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having regard to the fact that only £25.00 had been made to the ladies **AGREED:** That a donation of £25.00 be made.

**11.1. AGREED:** on a proposal from Bowness that at future AGMs 'Donations' are to be taken as one item.

**12. League Fee for Season 2013: AGREED:** That the fee be £15.00

**13. Entry Fee for the David Skidmore Competition: AGREED:** That the fee be waived for Season 2013

**14. David Skidmore Memorial Competition Prize Money: AGREED:** That the total prize money remain at £100.00; Winner to receive £50.00, Runner-up £25.00, losing Semi Finalists £12.50 each.

### **15. Notices of Motion:**

**15.1. Motion 1 - Constitution and Rules:** Proposal from the Secretary: 'That the Constitution and Rules as amended by the AGM of 16th November 2011 be adopted AND that the League Secretary be required to produce and issue a revised set incorporating any changes agreed at the AGM held on 21st November 2012'. Motion **APPROVED**

**15.2. Motion 2 – Review of Rule 6.2:** Proposal from League Secretary 'to review the operation of Rule R6.2 and if agreed make the rule permanent'. This was considered in conjunction with a proposal by Milnthorpe to amend Rule R6.2 in order 'to strengthen it' in their Motion (Agenda item 15.3 under 2). The League Secretary was of the view that the Rule had operated as intended. A discussion ensued about the Milnthorpe proposals by addition of words 'equivalent League' and removal of the word 'regular' in order to prohibit **any** player who has played in Division 1 and Division 2 of the Kendal League playing in the Rural League. After discussion:-

An **amendment was proposed by Holme**, seconded by Crosthwaite to delete Rule 6.2 entirely. Speaking to the Motion Ian Hayton said the Holme Club view was the more rules and regulations there were the more complicated and difficult things became. They had a team of 4 juniors and 4 adults who had come 15<sup>th</sup> out of 19 but had won the David Skidmore Competition however, they were happy to play any team. Crosthwaite commented that teams coming short of players 'had spoilt the evening'. The amendment was put to the vote but **was LOST**.

An **amendment proposed by Milnthorpe** to delete the word 'Regular' from Rule 6.2 failed to be seconded **and was LOST**

An **amendment proposed by Milnthorpe** to add the words 'or equivalent' to Rule 6.2 thus *Anyone who is a regular member of either a Division 1 or Division 2 team playing in the Kendal & District Bowling League or equivalent, should not be allowed to participate as a playing member in any weekly match in the South Lakeland Rural Bowling League.....* failed to find a seconded **and was LOST**.

The meeting having reviewed Rule 6.2, the original **Motion 2** 'to make Rule 6.2 permanent' was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

**15.3. MOTION 3 – Proposal from Milnthorpe that a club handicap be considered;** This was 'that the winner of the previous year's League would start off with a handicap of 5 chalks per player. The second team would have a handicap off 4 chalks per player etc.'

After discussion the motion failed to find a seconder and was **LOST**.

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**15.4. MOTION 4** To consider an application from **Levens** to rejoin the League. The Chairman hoped Levens had some new 'less experienced players'. Their representative said their second team had been relegated from Kendal League Division 2 so they would have more players available to cover shortages. They had lost potential members because they were not able to offer Rural League games last year; however, they hoped to recruit new members. **Agreed:** That Leven's application be approved

**15.5. MOTION 5** to consider an application from **Langdale** to join the League. Their letter of application states 'We have some new players who are keen to start playing in a competitive league and improve their standard of play'. A brief discussion was held. **Agreed:** That Langdale's application be approved

**16. Draw for the Season 2013 David Skidmore Memorial Competition:** The draw was made

**17. Trophy Presentations –Season 2011:** The Chairman presented the **League Cup** to **Kings Arms Hale** and the **David Skidmore Trophy** to **Holme**.

### **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**18.1. Netherfield:** Netherfield said how much they had enjoyed their first season in the League. They were hopeful of recruiting /forming a second team of inexperienced bowlers. They note that 21 teams meant that one club would have 'no match' each week; thus they hope that they might be able to field a second team to play against some of the teams with 'No match' on a 'friendly' match basis.

**18.2. Fixture list:** Hawkshead complained that they had had to travel to Sedbergh two seasons running and asked the fixture to be 'home' one in 2013. The Secretary apologised for this oversight and noted the request. On a general point whilst it was desirable that every fixture was a reverse of the previous season this was difficult to ensure for each and every match. Thus when the number of clubs changed from the previous season the fixture list could not simply be reversed; a new fixture list had to be generated for the forward season

**18.3. Cumbria County Crown Green Bowling Association (CCCGBA) - £1 levy proposal;** Allithwaite asked how the two Rural League votes would be cast at CCCGBA Annual General Meeting (AGM) with regard to the proposed £1.00 levy. Burneside asked what the levy was for? The Secretary explained information about the proposal had been sent to all Clubs. He briefly outlined some of the aims and objectives for the use of the levy which, was proposed to be made on each Registered Player via the clubs. Further the two League representatives had supported the proposal at County Committee meetings. The Secretary then asked how many clubs had considered the proposal from CCCGBA. Quite a number had. He then asked for a vote to show how the two League votes should be cast. There was a majority in favour of the Levy. **AGREED:** That the League Votes be cast in favour of the motion for a £1.00 levy at the CCCGBA AGM.

**19. End of Meeting:** The Chairman, Alice Waite thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.30pm

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